



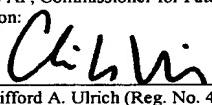
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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant(s) : Michael P. WHITMAN  
Serial No. : 10/785,672  
Filed : February 23, 2004  
For : SURGICAL CUTTING AND STAPLING DEVICE  
  
Examiner : Gloria R. Weeks  
Art Unit : 3721  
Confirmation No. : 2683

Mail Stop AF  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on:

Signature:   
Clifford A. Ulrich (Reg. No. 42,194)

Date: Nov. 8, 2006

**AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL OFFICE ACTION**

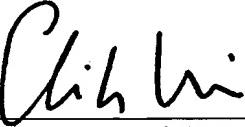
SIR:

In response to the Final Office Action of July 11, 2006, transmitted herewith is an Amendment for filing in the above-identified application.

Applicant hereby requests a one-month extension of time for responding to the Office Action of July 11, 2006. The extended period for response expires on November 11, 2006. Please charge the \$60.00 (small entity) extension fee and any other fee that may be required or credit any overpayment to Kenyon & Kenyon LLP Deposit Account No. 11-0600. A copy of this transmittal is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: November 8, 2006

By:   
Clifford A. Ulrich  
Registration No. 42,194

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